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1 October 1965

The Honorable Alexander Flax  
Director, National Reconnaissance Office  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Al:

The conclusion of a new NRO Agreement has caused us to examine the CIA organizational structure involved so as to assure ourselves that it will adequately support your office and its program. After careful study, we have decided to consolidate all of our satellite activities in the Office of Special Projects under Mr. John Crowley, and they will be responsible for CIA participation in CORONA, [redacted] and other projects as required. Manned reconnaissance aircraft development and operations will be the responsibility of the Office of Special Activities under Brigadier General Jack Ledford, which will manage the U-2 and OXCART programs. The development of airborne electronic equipment is accomplished in the Office of Elint under Mr. George Miller, but is responsive to the needs and program management of OSA. All of these offices report to the DD/S&T, who is Dr. Albert D. Wheelon.

[redacted]

All of this activity will come to a management focus in the person of a Director of CIA Reconnaissance Programs, who will report to the DD/S&T. Admiral Raborn and I will count on this individual to keep us informed on the NRP as appropriate. This will provide you with a single authoritative point of contact within the CIA for all our programs. It will replace the present concept of a Program B manager and relieve General Ledford of the responsibility for programs over which he has no real authority. In the future we will expect General Ledford to serve only in a line capacity as part of the CIA organization, in place of his present dual responsibility which has proved difficult to him and us. It is our desire that the CIA program within the NRP be so identified and that the Program B description of our activities be discontinued. I have designated [redacted] to serve in the capacity as Director of CIA Reconnaissance Programs on an interim basis, and all correspondence or requests bearing on CIA participation in

NRO review(s) completed.

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the NRO should be addressed to him. We would hope that working level contact with the NRO Staff and Messrs. Crowley, Ledford, Miller, and [ ] would continue as before.

I believe that the implementation of these management steps will considerably enhance the ability of CIA to support the new NRO Agreement more effectively--an objective to which we are all pledged.

Sincerely,

(Signed)  
Richard Helms  
Deputy Director

cc: Mr. Vance  
Admiral Raborn  
Dr. Wheelon  
Mr. FitzGerald  
Mr. Reber

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